

# Raising the Bar

New Orleans Office of Workforce Development • A Division of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development • February 2013 • Volume 1 • Issue 2

## JOB1 and Office of Workforce Development "Raise Bar" with Employer Breakfast



Imost 200 local business representatives attended a working breakfast in January hosted by the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development. The breakfast, held at the Hyatt Regency, is part of a concerted and ongoing outreach effort by City Hall to the local business community to inform them about the Office of Workforce Development and the many services it provides to employers.

"We're raising the bar for our local businesses," said Mayor Landrieu. "You're here today not only because we want to show you what we have to offer you; but we also want to hear from you about what your business needs are, and how we can expand our services and grow to better serve local businesses."



And with summer just around the corner, the Mayor didn't miss the opportunity to talk about NOLA Youth Works Summer Employment Program and encourage employers to sign on. Before leaving, employers completed interest cards, and they were given brochures, flyers and other handouts that highlight JOB1's programs and services.

### JOB1 Finds Construction Jobs for Veterans

hen they needed to hire six qualified veterans to work

with their company at the VA hospital site, BES Construction, Inc. came to JOB1. Of the six veterans sought, at least one would need to be a homeless veteran, part of a call to action by President Obama as part of his veteran's

hiring initiative. JOB1 staffers went to work and subsequently identified two homeless veterans and four others who were hired by the Alabama-based construction company at the livable wage

of \$14.00 an hour. The story doesn't end there, however. The positions required workers to have certain safety equipment like steel-toed boots, hard hats and tools. JOB1's support services would answer the call by supplying the six workers with the equipment they needed.

This removed what could have been a barrier to employment for the six veteran workers.

### A Clean Slate for New Orleans Workers

rom the time a person is arrested by the police and taken into custody, that person has a criminal history, even if the arrest doesn't result in a conviction or charges being filed. The impact of a criminal arrest or conviction is long term. The existence of a criminal record can negatively impact employment opportunities, voting rights, access to government assistance, and financial aid for education and technical training.

To limit the negative impact that a criminal record can have on an individual's ability to rejoin the traditional economy, JOB1 has entered into an agreement with the Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana (JAC) to provide expungement services to qualifying registered JOB1 members at no cost.

On January 24, 2013 the JAC hosted an expungement interest meeting for 25 JOB1 members. The JAC will follow up by offering expungement assessments at JOB1 to help these members better understand their rights and the process of cleaning up their criminal record.

In addition to direct client expungements and services, JAC will provide resources for local attorneys and JOB1 staff to improve services for members re-entering the workforce. JAC will also provide technical assistance for expungement clinics and referral services from JOB1 to pro-bono partners.

JOB1 will furnish a portion of the court costs and non-legal fees associated with the complicated and expensive expungement process (for registered JOB1 members only). Contact (504) 658-4583 for more information on upcoming clinics and services that may be available.



## **Business Speaks**

### New Restaurant Strikes Gold at JOB1

ittle Gem Saloon interviewed 55 applicants at JOB1's Tulane Avenue office. Of those interviewed, 21 were hired as owner Chris Ycaza prepared for the opening of his new restaurant located in New Orleans' CBD. "Not a bad average, thanks to JOB1" said Ycaza. "We were very impressed

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with the quality of the candidates JOB1 found for us," echoed Chef Robert Bruce. "Their ability to assess potential hires so that we interviewed only qualified candidates was extremely helpful and very efficient," Bruce said. In fact, one of the candidates was hired for an entry-level management position at a starting salary of \$35,000.



### Putting on the Ritz

n December 10, 2012, The Ritz Carlton New Orleans hosted an on-site recruiting event at JOB1. Candidates were pre-screened by JOB1's Recruitment & Placement Team prior to the event. Representative, Jessica Whiteman, Human Resources Manager stated "we greatly appreciated the fact that candidates were screened by JOB1 first; we also feel that JOB1 did a great job narrowing our candidate pool." Seven individuals were hired. These were first steps in developing a long term relationship between JOB1 Business Services Center and the Ritz.

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## Security Companies Safe with JOB1

he City of New Orleans was in overdrive as we prepared for Super Bowl XLVII followed shortly thereafter by Mardi Gras. With security at an all-time high for these events, companies like Elliot Security, Security Industry Specialist and Marathon Staffing needed to recruit temporary workers. They came to JOB1. JOB1 helped the three companies identify and hire 64 employees.

JOB1 helped hire 64 security employees.





### Subsized Employment Works

wo clients, Royal and Willie, came to JOB1 seeking assistance with employment. They were selected to participate in a Work Experience with the Department of Parks & Parkways as temporary employees through our National Emergency Grant funding. This was a great opportunity for our clients due to the fact that they had been incarcerated for over fifteen years combined. While participating in the Work Experience program they were considered for permanent positions. They are currently in the preemployment stages with the Department of Parks & Parkways waiting on results from tests.

## Job Seekers Spotlight



## Summer Youth Employment Works Year Round

heradie was placed at the Orleans Parish School
Board as part of the 2012 NOLA Youth Works
Summer Employment Program. When funds became
available to employ a student worker for the Human
Resources Department, OPSB's Chief of Staff, Dr. Armand
B. Devezin, thought that the department would benefit more
from employing college students instead of a different high
school student each year. Sheradie Jackson's name was
submitted by Lisa Scott, her previous supervisor at OPSB.
Since her employment with OPSB, Sheradie has displayed
professionalism and outstanding work ethics which made
her stand out amongst the other students who were assigned

through your program. She left OPSB with a remarkable impression which made it easy for us to employ her year round. At the start of each semester, she has submitted her hours of availability and has followed through with the commitment of the agreed upon schedule. She's punctual and has been present each day. Sheradie assists the department with a variety of clerical duties inculding database management, payroll preparation, and processing retirement services. She has a high-spirited disposition which makes working with her a pleasure.

## Back On Track

rielle came to JOB1 after being unemployed for two years. She was a Certified Nursing Assistant, however; as an ex-offender her employability was limited. Arielle was discouraged and was looking for more. She came to JOB1 and met with a Career Advisor for assistance with job searches. Career Advisor Darrell Cunnikin assisted her and developed an Individual Employment Plan to discuss her possible employment opportunities. Arielle came to an information session about a short term employment opportunity. She was offered a temporary position as a laborer with the City's Sanitation Department and graciously accepted. While working in her temp role, Arielle was a

shining star. Arielle decided not to let her previous training go to waste and with the help of her Career Advisor began marketing herself. She networked with different agencies on her off time and was offered a position as a Nursing Assistant with a local healthare provider. Arielle eagerly accepted the offer. Now Arielle is working as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Once again, she has no intentions to stop following her career goals she and her Career Advisor have set. She is planning on continuing her education and becoming a Registered Nurse.





## **Application Process**

Appointments may be scheduled at:

### WWW.NOLA.GOV/NOLAYOUTHWORKS

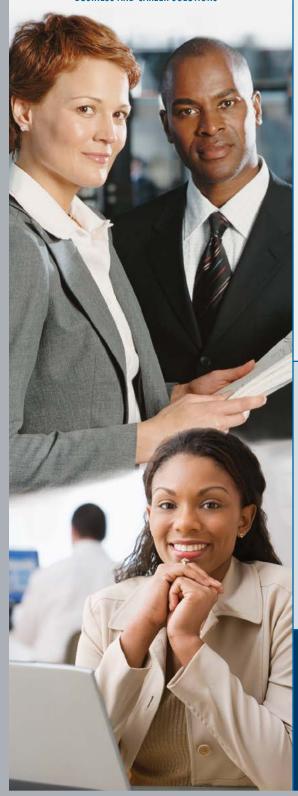
Click on "Youth Information" → "Schedule NOW" Choose the date and time that works best for you.

Complete the online application and bring it with you to your scheduled appointment. (No Computer Access? Use your Smartphone, school library or local public library)

**Dress Code: Business Casual or School Uniform** Youth under age 18 must have a parent/legal guardian present during the application process.

## Calendar of Events





#### **In-house Recruiting Event**

(3400 Tulane, 2nd Floor)
2/14/13 – Staffing Agency Recruiting Event - 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Prescreened On-site recruiting event (Invitation Only)
2/28/13 – Ritz Carlton 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

#### **Work Readiness Workshops**

(3400 Tulane, 2nd Floor)
2/20/13 – Applications, Assets, & Staffing Agencies 9:00 am – 11:30 am
2/20/13 – Resumes and Cover Letters 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
2/27/13 – Applications, Assets, & Staffing Agencies 9:00 am – 11:30 am
2/27/13 – Resumes and Cover Letters 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

#### **Work Readiness Workshops**

(3520 General DeGaulle, Suite 1030) 2/18/13 – Applications 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm 2/25/13 – Resume and Cover Letters 2:00 pm – 3:40 pm

#### **NOLA Youth Works**

NOLA Youth Works Summer Employment Application 2/16 – 3/28 (By Appointment Only) www.nola.gov/nolayouthworks

#### **OSHA 10 Training**

Call to Inquire About Training at (504) 658-4500

#### **Customer Service Training**

Call to Inquire About Training at (504) 658-4500

All job fairs are open to JOB1 members. To become a member please register at the JOB1 Business and Career Solutions Center.

## Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu, Chief Elected Official Nadiyah Coleman, Executive Director

#### New Orleans Workforce Investment Board Executive Committee

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Dr. Margaret Montgomery-Richard, WIB Vice-Chair
Dr. Petrice Sams-Abiodun, WIB Secretary
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